

HOUSE No. 2087

By Mrs. Paulsen of Belmont, petition of Anne M. Paulsen and others relative to promoting non-motorized methods of transportation in the Commonwealth. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

| | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Anne M. Paulsen | Todd M. Smola |
| Bruce E. Tarr | J. James Marzilli, Jr. |
| Scott P. Brown | Patricia D. Jehlen |
| Kay Khan | Kathleen M. Teahan |
| Denis E. Guyer | Mary E. Grant |
| Richard T. Moore | Reed V. Hillman |

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT TO ADD PUBLIC HEALTH GOALS TO THE MISSION OF THE TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. *Whereas*, increasing numbers of health studies
2 link the increase in childhood and adult obesity to the significant
3 decrease in regular physical activity of people in part due to trans-
4 portation policies that geared heavily towards motor vehicle use;
5 and
6 *Whereas*, increased childhood and adult obesity will reduce the
7 quality of life for many Massachusetts residents and result in ever
8 increasing costs to deal with the medical complications of obesity
9 including diabetes, heart ailments and other diseases;

10 Therefore;

1 SECTION 2. Chapter 6A of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by creating section 19B with the following language:—

3

Promoting Active Living in Transportation.

4 Section 19B (a) The secretary shall ensure that transportation
5 policies and infrastructure decisions affirmatively include a com-
6 mitment to promote and/or enhance non-motorized transportation
7 and other transportation-related contributions that increase active
8 lifestyles that improve public health and decrease childhood and
9 adult obesity.

10 (b) Any transportation project that requires notification under
11 the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act shall include a health
12 impact assessment conducted prior to final approval of the project.

13 (c) The secretary shall take actions to include a voting repre-
14 sentative from the Executive Office of Health and Human Serv-
15 ices on the board of the Boston Metropolitan Planning and on
16 other regional planning organizations.

17 (d) All transportation and parking projects using state funds or
18 requiring review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy
19 Act will include routine accommodations for non-motorized
20 modes including parking and connections.

21 (e) Any transportation project using state funds or requiring
22 review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act that
23 expands roadway capacity shall include plans and projects to
24 specifically increase non-motor vehicle use in the communities to
25 the same degree that roadway capacity is increased.

26 (f) All municipalities receiving state transportation funds must
27 have a transportation advisory committee or traffic commission
28 that includes representatives from local or regional pedestrian or
29 bicycle organizations.